

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00848 031422Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 JUSE-00 FRB-03 TRSE-00 EB-07 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EUR-12 /077 W

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R 031359Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0019

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, ECON

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS DIRECTOR INDICTED FOR BRIBERY

1. GOI DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS DAVID PELED WAS ARRESTED JAN. 26 FOR ALLEGEDLY RECEIVING BRIBES AND VIOLATING FOREIGN CURRENCY REGULATIONS. CASE HAS TAKEN ON DIMENSIONS OF SCANDAL NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF PELED'S POSITION BUT ALSO, AS ONE FINANCE MINISTRY SOURCE PUT IT, QUOTE PELED WAS LAST PERSON IN WORLD ONE WOULDHAVE SUSPECTED OF THIS TYPE OF WRONG DOING UNQUOTE. IN SAME VEIN, ANOTHER ISRAELI DESCRIBED PELED AS QUINTESSENTIAL MODEL OF PROBITY WHO HAD INSTILLED SPIRIT OF RESPECT FOR, AND EVEN FEAR OF, THE LAW THROUGHOUT CUSTOMS SERVICE.

2. PELED SCANDAL BROKE THROUGH TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL ROBINSON WHOSE FATHER COMMITTED SUICIDE LAST YEAR AFTER INVESTIGATION OF HIS BANKING OPERATION IN SWITZERLAND. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS YOUNG ROBINSON IMPLICATED PELED IN RETURN FOR IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION FOR FOREIGN CURRENCY VIOLATIONS. FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT PELED'S ACCOUNT WAS DISCOVERED BY GOI TAX OFFICIAL SEARCHING THROUGH ROBINSON BANK'S ACCOUNTS IN BASEL. PRESS CITES PELED AS STATING IN HIS DEFENSE THAT HE HAD RECEIVED 200,000 SWISS FRANCS

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 00848 031422Z

ON BEHALF OF RELATIVE.

3. COMMENT: PELED AFFAIR COMES ON THE HEELS OF LAST  
YEAR'S BANKING AND DEFENSE AGENTS' SCANDALS PLUS  
ACCOUNTS OF IRREGULARITIES IN GOVERNMENT COINS AND  
MEDALS CORPORATION, WHICH IS REPORTEDLY EXCEEDING ITS  
MANDATE BY GIVING AWAY OR SELLING CHEAPLY HIGHLY  
VALUED ISRAELI COMMEMORATIVE COINS AND MEDALS.  
FURTHER ARRESTS OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE EXPECTED.  
DUNNIGAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORRUPTION, ARRESTS, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TELAV00848  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760040-0821  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 70  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CUSTOMS DIRECTOR INDICTED FOR BRIBERY  
**TAGS:** SOCI, ECON, IS, (PELED, DAVID)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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